

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:265

ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008

IPO OF BSNL

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Khan Shri Sunil;Rajendran Shri P.;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to float a Rs. 4000 crore Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the BSNL unions have opposed this proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objections; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) & (b) The Government is contemplating to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer of sale to the public.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Joint Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations of BSNL employees had given notice for indefinite strike from 26.2.08 against the IPO proposal of BSNL without giving reasons thereof. The proposed strike has been deferred by the Joint Forum.
- (e) The Government has explained the advantages of listing of BSNL shares to the representatives of employees of BSNL shares to the representatives of employees of BSNL. These advantages include:-
 - (i) it will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status;
 - (ii) useful for improving the image of BSNL;
 - (iii) will promote growth of BSNL.